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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/738,267	12/15/2000	Alson Kemp	TRIPP013	1642

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, DANNY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2836

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/738,267

Applicant(s)

KEMP ET AL.

Examiner

Danny Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2000.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-7, and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nguyen et. al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,629,609).

Regarding to claim 1, 10, 11, Nguyen et. al. disclose an over-voltage protection circuit for interposing between an input voltage and supply voltage (fig. 1), the over-voltage protection circuit comprising switch circuitry (45) connected to and passing current between an input voltage and a supply voltage; switch control circuitry (38, 39) for sensing the supply voltage and regulating current flow through the switch circuitry in response thereto, wherein the switch control circuitry comprises a voltage regulator (transistor 13) configured as a voltage controlled current source to provide a control signal to control the switching circuit (transistor 45), and amplifier for amplifying an input signal (see col. 3, lines 2-18).

Regarding to claim 2, Nguyen et. al. disclose the switch circuitry comprises at least one transistor (45) connected between the input voltage and the supply voltage.

Regarding to claims 3, 4, 5, Nguyen et. al. disclose the at least one transistor comprises at least one P-type MOSFET (13) and at least one N-type MOSFET (see col.

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3, lines 44-45), and the at least one transistor comprises a plurality of transistor configured in parallel (45).

Regarding to claim 6, Nguyen et. al. disclose the at least one transistor comprises a single transistor (see col. 5, lines 13-15).

Regarding to claim 7, Nguyen et. al. disclose the switch control circuitry comprises a resistor divider (38, 39) for sensing the supply voltage, and a voltage control current source for providing a control signal to the switch circuitry (38, 39), and the voltage controlled current source comprises a voltage regulator (38, 39).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen et. al. in view of Palmer (U.S. Patent No. 5,581,626). Nguyen et. al. disclose an over-voltage protection circuit for interposing between a vehicle battery voltage and an amplifier supply voltage, the amplifier supply voltage providing power to the amplifier circuitry (fig. 1), the over-voltage protection circuit comprising switch circuitry (45) connected to and passing current between an battery voltage and a supply voltage; switch control circuitry (38, 39) for sensing the supply voltage and regulating current flow through the switch circuitry in response thereto wherein the switch control circuitry comprises a voltage regulator (transistor 13) configured as a voltage controlled current

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source to provide a control signal to control the switching circuit (transistor 45), but do not disclose an automotive system comprising an audio amplifier for amplifying an audio input signal. However, Palmer discloses an automotive system (10) comprising an audio amplifier (22) for amplifying an audio input signal. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to have modified the audio amplifier of Palmer to amplify the input signal because this allows reducing the output power delivered to circuit protected.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 08/06/2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

It is argued that Nguyen does not show a voltage regulator configured as a current source providing a control signal to control the switch circuitry. However, Nguyen disclose the voltage-regulating transistor (13) (also see fig. 1) configured as a voltage controlled current to provide a control signal to control the switching circuit (45). Therefore, Applicant's claims 1 and 10-12 do not distinguish over Nguyen reference.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Danny Nguyen whose telephone number is (703)-305-5988. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Fri 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (703)-308-3119. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)-305-1341 for regular communications and (703)-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-0956.

DN

D.N.
October 24, 2002

 10/31/02
KIM HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER